

ARE SONS OF TOLL

They Will Meet to Contrive a New Form of Government

New Kind of Liberty Desired—A Meeting Which Will Assemble the Leaders from the Ends of the Earth.

[Copyright, 1894.]

The latest development in the cause of industrial reform is the call for a national congress to be held in Chicago, May 1, 1894, to consider the subject of "Industrial Democracy," in a practical way.

It grows out of the address recently given by Henry D. Lloyd before the American Federation of Labor. At that time he not only gave his usual scholarly and philosophical analysis of present conditions, but he pointed out a plan which might lead directly to the millennium of "Social Democracy." He said: "In seven years, January 1, 1900, the twentieth century will open. Let us begin to make ready for that next emancipation—that new liberty which enlarges democracy. Let America, the leader of the liberties of mankind, make the first move and let the federation of trades' unions of its working people lead America. I venture to suggest that the American federation of labor could do the cause of civilization no greater service. Let it initiate here and now a plan for a series of national and international conferences or congresses of labor. Let these culminate on the first May-day of the new century with an international demonstration of the labor organizations of all countries."

"Let this be a grand international constitutional convention in which a new Magna Charter, a new declaration of rights shall be proclaimed to guide and inspire the life of those who wish to live in the new commonwealth. The labor organizations are waiting for some such definite word and plan. This is true not only of this country, but of Europe. There are hundreds of other organizations, not of labor, which if you choose to invite them would fall into line at once. The proposal is



PROMINENT DELEGATES TO THE COMING CONVENTION.

practical enough to command the support of those who want to do something now. It is so broad and far-reaching as to kindle even dull imaginations. At the first note of your call new hope and strength will swell the veins of nations."

Through some oversight no definite action was taken on the proposition by the American federation. It was tacitly endorsed, however, by endorsing the whole address of which this is a part. Thousands of copies were printed and distributed among the delegates of the convention and a million will be scattered broadcast over the land, chiefly to wage workers, but all who are interested can obtain copies. The fact that the federation did not take actual charge of the matter is now regarded as advantageous. If it had, there would be a disposition to confine the membership and deliberations of the congress closely to trade union lines.

Now the greatest latitude will be given. Every school of industrial thought will be invited. The theoretical and scientific phases of the movement will be equally welcome with the practical.

The call for the meeting will quote Lloyd's suggestion given above and will add only the necessary details in regard to delegates, time and place of meeting, etc. The committee in charge of the affair are corresponding with people of note all over the country, asking their cooperation in the plan. The call for the congress will be signed by leaders in every branch of industrial reform. It is expected that such names will appeal to their respective constituents and sympathizers and insure a gathering of a thoroughly national and representative character.

When published it will be sent to every liberal publication in the country and thus receive the widest circulation for at least three months before the date of the congress. There is every reason to believe that there will be a general response.

Of course the first query is: What will be the policy of such a congress? What will it try to accomplish?

Those who are in a position to know, say that there will be no out and dried plan. After the congress is called the elements composing it must decide what the course shall be. Said one: "The general object will be to outline and finally complete plans for inaugurating a system of government which shall have as its mainspring the cooperation and centralization of all industrial efforts for the benefit of each in proportion as he serves the commonwealth. At least that is the idea suggested by Henry D. Lloyd. It is certainly a broad and comprehensive one. And all the reformers will have an equal chance to put in the details

which will make the plan practical.

"Mr. Lloyd believes that in the natural order of events the present industrial system is a bout to pass away, and that at the beginning of the twentieth century a new one will begin, whether we hasten it or not."

"Still the first step is to find out if even the progressive reformers are ready to inaugurate such a plan. It is possible that they can not yet agree on anything so comprehensive. What better means could be devised than to bring all types together and have a full and free discussion?"

"There will be the trade unionists, socialists, single tax, railway brotherhoods, American railway unions, farmers' alliance, women suffragists and temperance people, to say a thing of those who study reforms in a philosophical way and are not committed to any special school of thought."

Henry D. Lloyd is by no means alone in the belief that the present industrial system is about to pass away and will soon give place to some more socialized form of government. "Still," said one leader, "it remains to be seen just how definite are the ideas of all reformers on the subject. I should not be surprised at a spontaneous burst of enthusiasm at the first congress that will show that the people are actually looking for the new social democracy."

The nationalists and all grades of socialists are joyful over the calling of such a conference. Even if it fails of its proposed object, it will be an opportunity for propaganda not to be missed. The very calling of the conference is considered as a great step toward their theories. Still they will have to exercise more tolerance than they usually do or the other classes of reformers may adopt many plans which will be very distasteful to the aforesaid socialists.

It would seem, however, that the labor organizations are already pledged to the socialist or collective idea, in a general way, as opposed to individualism. Master Workman Sovereign, of the Knights of Labor, says that he is a socialist and recommends the study of such principles to the order.

The American Federation of Labor at its last convention endorsed "The

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"Oh, not necessarily," rejoined Willie modestly. "You see, I never ride one."

—Washington Star.

A Fearful Mile.

Mother—"What have you done to your little sister?"

Boy—"Nothing."

"Then what is she crying for?"

"I dunno. Guess she's crying because she can't think of anything to cry for."

—Good News.

Not Exactly That.

"Oh, I do believe that Charlie is taking banjo or mandolin lessons to surprise me."

Fanny—"Why? Does he play?"

"Well, I heard him tell papa that he'd played out of luck last night."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

What He Had Seen.

Binks—"Did you ever see a cake walk?"

Jinks—"No, but I have seen a cheese that might have walked if given half a chance."—New York Weekly.

This inscription appears in a Wisconsin cemetery over the grave of a woman written by her husband: "Tears cannot restore thee; therefore I weep."

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